

## NATIONAL SQUAD PROGRAMME

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### INTRODUCTION

The World Class Swimming Programme introduced the National Squad Programme in 2009 as a means of:

- Providing an opportunity and forum to build the national team philosophy and culture that involves potential senior national team members.
- Provide support to talented swimmers who do not meet the qualification guidelines to be a member of the World Class Podium Programme but still have a contribution to make to the senior National Team both in and out of the pool.

### What is the objective of the National Squad Programme?

The objective of the National Squad Programme is as follows:

- To identify swimmers who are likely to qualify to represent Great Britain in major international competitions, and to provide this squad of swimmers and their coaches with experiences and opportunities that will enable them to fully realise their potential in London 2012 and in the annual benchmark competitions leading up to the Olympic Games.

### Who is eligible to be in the National Squad?

The National Squad will comprise of up to 52 swimmers. Swimmers achieving one of the criteria below will be considered by the British Swimming Head Coach for selection to the National Squad Programme. Please note when selecting the 52 swimmers for the squad they will be selected in the following priority order:

- World Class Podium swimmers
- Top ranked six British swimmers in 100m and 200m long course freestyle events from the combined results of meets designated in this policy and top two ranked British swimmers in the 100m long course butterfly backstroke and breaststroke events from the combined results of meets designated in this policy
- The balance of the squad will be selected from the top ranked swimmers who achieve a time within 2.68 percent of the 2008 Olympic bronze medal performance in an individual event from meets designated in this policy.

**What are the designated meets to qualify times to be a member of the National Squad Programme?**

The designated meets from which performances will be considered are:

- Olympic Games and World Long Course Championships
- European Senior and Junior Long Course Championships
- Commonwealth Games
- British Long Course Championships/Trials
- Home Country National Meets approved by the British Swimming Head Coach
- Others meets deemed appropriate by the British Swimming Head Coach and published in advance

Designated Meets for **2009** are:

- World Long Course Championships
- Scottish Nationals
- ASA Youth/Seniors
- World University Games
- Tri-Nations Meet
- European Long Course Juniors

**What are the times swimmers need to achieve to be within 2.68 percent of the 2008 Olympic bronze medal performance?**

Please refer to Table 1 which outlines the time considerations for male and female swimmers over the 26 individual events on the Olympic programme. Please note that selection to the national squad under this criterion is dependant on both the number of places available on the national squad and the individuals ranking compared to other swimmers when utilising the criteria of “2.68 percent of the 2008 Olympic bronze medal performance”. Where more swimmers meet the criteria than available places, priority will be given to swimmers closest to the Olympic bronze medal time.

**Are there any criteria above and beyond the performance criteria identified above?**

Yes, selection will be contingent upon an uncompromised and comprehensive commitment to training in preparation for peak performance in the annual British Swimming International benchmark competition and associated trials and upon participation in the required National Squad activities.

**What is the term of membership of the National Squad Programme?**

Athletes will be selected to the National Squad Programme for a period of one year following the British International benchmark event each year. This period will usually coincide with the announcements of the World Class Podium members (1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October each year). An interim review will also be conducted following the British Long Course Championships, at which time, additional athletes who achieve the qualifying criteria, may be added to the squad for a period to the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **What are the benefits of being a National Squad member?**

All National Squad members will be offered opportunities to attend designated National Squad activities such as camps and international competitions. In addition there will be opportunities for National Squad athletes not on the World Class Podium Programme or in receipt of support via an ITC or Podium/Development Club to apply to the British Swimming Head Coach for supplemental assistance for training and competition expenses.

### **Who is eligible to receive supplemental financial assistance from the National Squad Programme?**

The following athletes are eligible to receive financial assistance from this programme:

- National Squad swimmers who are not on the World Class Podium or Development Programme
- National Squad swimmers not located at Intensive Training Centres (ITCs)
- National Squad swimmers not training in a Podium or Development Club
- National Squad swimmers not receiving TASS support

### **What level of assistance is available to support athletes who are members of the National Squad Programme?**

Athletes eligible for supplemental funding will be offered a maximum of up to £2,000 per annum to assist with their training and competition expenses subject to the approval of the British Head Coach. Athletes selected for the National Squad mid term following the interim review will receive a maximum of £2,000 pro-rata.

All National Squad members will receive additional support to attend camps (e.g. the National Squad Camp and other designated camps) as well as funded opportunities to attend designated International competitions such as the Mare Nostrum series.

### **Are swimmers training off-shore eligible to receive financial support from this programme?**

Swimmers training outside the UK who are not in receipt of APA funding, are eligible to receive National Squad programme support as designated in this policy document.

### **How do I apply for financial support?**

An Application form for financial support can be found on the British Swimming Website or via the British Swimming office. This form must be completed and returned by the athlete and their home coach to the British Head Coach.

### **Annual Policy Review and Revisions**

The World Class Swimming Programme will review the National Squad Programme policy position and entitlements on an annual basis with the updated policy being posted on the website by British Swimming in advance of the British Championships each year. The next National Squad policy document review will be completed by the end of 2009 and the revised policy posted on the World Class Swimming Programme's section of the British Swimming's website two months prior to the staging of the British Long Course Championships on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

**WORLD CLASS SWIMMING PROGRAMMES**

**NATIONAL SQUAD CONSIDERATION TIMES**

**TABLE 1**

FEMALE	EVENT	MALE
24.84	50 Freestyle	22.08
54.86	100 Freestyle	48.98
01:58.22	200 Freestyle	01:48.04
04:10.23	400 Freestyle	03:48.91
08:36.88	800 Freestyle	
	1500 Freestyle	15:07.00
01:00.97	100 Backstroke	54.64
02:10.63	200 Backstroke	01:58.09
01:09.19	100 Breaststroke	01:01.00
02:26.96	200 Breaststroke	02:12.49
58.83	100 Butterfly	52.53
02:09.74	200 Butterfly	01:56.08
02:13.93	200 Individual Medley	01:59.74
04:39.19	400 Individual Medley	04:14.92

